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Description of a new *Coptosia* Fairmaire, 1864 from Iran (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Lamiinae, Phytoeciini)

Abstract - A new species of *Coptosia* from the Fars province in Iran is described. The new species is very easily recognizable from any known species by its distinctive elytral pattern similar to that of *Pseudocoptosia eylandti* (Semenov, 1891) from Central Asia.

Key words: Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Lamiinae, Phytoeciini, *Coptosia*, new species, Iran.

Riassunto - Descrizione di una nuova specie di *Coptosia* Fairmaire, 1864 dell'Iran (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Lamiinae, Phytoeciini).

L'autore descrive *Coptosia gianasso* n. sp. dell'Iran centrale (Fars). La nuova specie si distingue a prima vista da tutte le specie note del genere per l'habitus del tutto particolare, simile a quello di *Pseudocoptosia eylandti* (Semenov, 1891) dell'Asia Centrale.

Parole chiave: Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Lamiinae, Phytoeciini, *Coptosia*, nuova specie, Iran.

Introduction

The genus *Coptosia* Fairmaire, 1864, is represented in Iran by *C. compacta* (Ménétries, 1832), *C. bythiniensis* (Ganglbauer, 1884) and *C. antoniae* (Reitter, 1889), which are known only from the northern part of the country (Villiers, 1967). During a recent entomological trip in central Iran, my colleague and friend Domenico Gianasso was able to discover a single specimen of a new species belonging to this genus. In spite of it being a single female, it is so distinctive that it cannot be confused with any known species; its description is given below. The new species is amicably dedicated to its collector, Domenico Gianasso, specialist in Coleoptera Buprestidae.

Coptosia gianasso n. sp.

Holotype female: Iran, Fars province: Safsahar (Dehbid), 2,188 m, 30° 30'N, 53°12'E, 17 April, 2006, leg. D. Gianasso, author's collection.



Fig. 1 - *Coptosia gianassoi* n. sp., Holotype (Olotipo) ♀.

Description of the holotype female (Fig. 1)

Length: 12.5 mm (pygidium included). Integument black, dorsal surface clothed with whitish and golden-brown pubescence forming a distinctive pattern. Head densely clothed with grey and brown intermixed pubescence and a patch of whitish pubescence extending backwards from the frons to the vertex. Pronotum densely clothed with appressed brown pubescence and with three longitudinal stripes of white pubescence. Scutellum densely clothed with white appressed pubescence. Elytra clothed with appressed pubescence in rather well delimited longitudinal vittae of different width: each elytron has one sutural and one humeral stripe of white pubescence, one dorsal and one lateral stripe of brown pubescence; ventral side of the body moderately densely clothed with greyish pubescence and with sparse erect golden hairs; abdomen with numerous round, glabrous areas.

Head with front convex, antennal tubercles not protruding, widely separated; eyes finely faceted, very deeply emarginate; mandibles short, unicuspidate on tips; palpi subequal, last segment of maxillary palpi moderately short, longer than the two preceding together, longer than the preceding one; last segment of labial palpi about as long as the preceding one. Pronotum moderately transverse, slightly convex on the disc, almost parallel sided. Elytra strongly convex, humeri distinct, apices separately rounded. Prosternal process narrow, gradually curved between coxae, dilated apically; front coxae slightly angulate laterally, closed posteriorly; mesosternal process subtriangular, wider than the prosternal; intermediate coxal cavities open laterally to the epimera; metasternum with a short preapical oblique impression at each side of the middle; metepisterna wide, tapering posteriorly; last abdominal sternite with a thin longitudinal incision at base and shallowly transversely impressed before the apex. Antennae short, not extending beyond the middle of elytra, with segments rather robust; 1st segment 1.73x longer than each 3rd, 4th and 5th which are similar in length; segments 6th to 11th clothed with dark brown pubescence, distinctly annulated with cinereous pubescence at base. Legs short, with tarsal segments short; the first segment of hind tarsi not longer than the two following united; the second segment transverse, about as wide as long, the last segment slightly shorter than the preceding one, cleft almost to its base; tarsal claws appendiculate, the inner tooth very short, not longer than the half of the outer tooth.

Discussion

The new species is very easily recognizable from any known species of *Coptosia*; *C. compacta* and *C. bithyniensis* differ from the new species by different elytral pattern, pronotum conspicuously expanded and dilated laterally, the whole body with numerous long erect setae, antennae longer and with segments not annulated. *C. antoniae* differs from *C. gianassoi* n. sp. for its totally different coloration, with pronotum and elytra uniformly black, without longitudinal stripes, and clothed with fine gray pubescence. The elytral pattern of *C. gianassoi* n. sp. resembles, in fact, some species of *Pseudocoptosia* Pic, 1943, such as *P. eylandti* Semenov, 1891 from Central Asia; this latter differs from the new species by its pronotum more convex and distinctly dilated laterally, antennae conspicuously

longer, extending, in female, to the apical third of elytra, with segments slender and not annulated, the 1st one only 1.16 times longer than 3rd, this latter 1.28 times longer than 4th; elytra with short erect setae on basal half, legs with tarsi longer and more slender.

Biology

All known species of *Coptosia* develop in roots of Boraginaceae; according to its collector, the single specimen of the new species was found under basal leaves of a plant of *Eryngium* sp. I do not know if *Eryngium* is really the host plant of the new species or if the female used this plant as a casual shelter; further researches devoted to find more specimens have been totally fruitless.

References

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